

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Amended) A test strip comprising:
a spreading material, the spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate.

~~30-34.~~ (Canceled)

35. (Previously Amended) The test strip of claim 29 wherein the spreading material comprises 0.01 to 2.0% by weight of N-oleoyl-sarcosinate relative to the weight of the material before impregnation.

36. (Previously Amended) The test strip of claim 29 wherein the porous flat structure comprises a textile sheet material made of monofilaments or corresponding multifilament yarns.

37. (Previously Amended) The test strip of claim 29 wherein the porous flat structure comprises a fabric or fleece material with a weight per unit area of 10 to 200 g/m².

38. (Previously Amended) The test strip of claim 29 wherein the porous flat structure has at least one of a thickness of 20 to 200 μ m and a pore volume of 30 to 85%.

39. (Previously Amended) A process for producing a test strip comprising a spreading material comprising the steps of:

providing a test strip comprising a porous flat structure and impregnating the porous flat structure with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate.

40. (Previously Added) The process of claim 39 wherein the wetting agent is applied such that a coating of 0.01 to 2.0% by weight of the applied wetting agent relative to the weight of the material before impregnation remains on the porous material.

41. (Previously Added) A test strip comprising a flexible flat support on which one or several test fields are arranged next to one another, wherein said test fields carry one or several detection layers stacked on top of one another, and wherein the test fields are covered by an overlay made of a spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate.

42. (Previously Amended) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the overlay comprises one or several flat overlay elements which are attached to the test strip in such a way that a part of their surface can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface when the test strip is bent towards a side on which the overlay is located.

43. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 42 wherein the test fields are covered by the parts of the overlay elements that can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface.

44. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 42 wherein the overlay comprises two overlay elements whose parts that can be displaced freely relative to the strip surface face one another and overlap.

45. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 44 wherein the overlap covers two test fields.

46. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the test strip comprises two single or multilayer test fields for the same or different diagnostically usable analytes, said test fields directly adjoining one another or being separated by a gap.

47. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the arrangement of detection layers and overlays on the test strip is covered with an inert flat material in such a manner that a space only remains free that is adequate for sample application in an overlap region of the overlay elements viewed in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the test strip.

48. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the hydrophilicity, transparency and liquid conducting capacity of the overlay material are matched in such a manner that a sample excess is not taken up by the strip.

49. (Previously Added) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the test strip comprises one test field which supports a monofilament spreading material which is larger than the test field and is attached to the support on both sides of the test field by means of a spacer having the thickness of the test field whereby the part of the spreading material which extends beyond the test field is covered by sample-impermeable material so that a sample application is only possible on that part of the spreading material which rests on the test field.

50. (Previously Added) A spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate, wherein the spreading material comprises 0.01 to 2.0 % by weight of N-oleoyl-sarcosinate relative to the weight of the material before impregnation.

51. (Previously Added) A spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate, wherein the porous flat structure comprises a textile sheet material made of monofilaments or corresponding multifilament yarns.

52. (Previously Added) A spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate, wherein the porous flat structure comprises a fabric or fleece material with a weight per unit area of 10 to 200 g/m².

53. (Previously Added) A spreading material comprising a porous flat structure impregnated with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate, wherein the porous flat structure has at least one of a thickness of 20 to 200 μ m. and a pore volume of 30 to 85%.

54. (Previously Added) A process for producing a spreading material comprising the steps of providing a porous flat structure and impregnating the porous flat structure with a wetting agent, wherein the wetting agent is N-oleoyl-sarcosinate and is applied such that a coating of 0.01 to 2.0% by weight of the applied wetting agent relative to the weight of the material before impregnation remains on the porous material.



55. (Added) The test strip of claim 41 wherein the overlay material is provided with liquid conducting capacity selected to obviate excess sample from the detection layer.